Nova Scotia

ANNUAL REPORT

for the fiscal year
ending December 31, 1987

Environmental Control Council

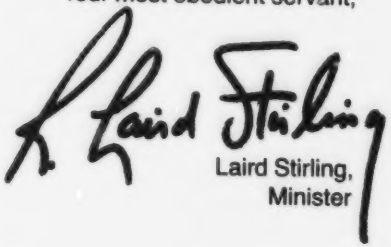
To His Honour
The Honourable Alan R. Abraham, C.D.
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

May it please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council for the year ending December 31, 1987.

I have the honour to be, Sir:

Your most obedient servant,



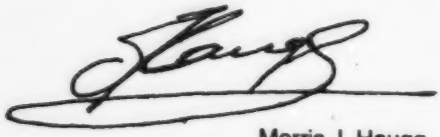
Laird Stirling,
Minister

Honourable R. Laird Stirling
Minister
Department of the Environment
Province of Nova Scotia

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council for the year ending December 31, 1987.

Respectfully yours,



Morris J. Haugg,
Chairman

INTRODUCTION

The Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council is a citizens advisory board to the Minister of the Environment. The Council was established under the Environmental Protection Act, SNS 1973 c.6.

This Annual Report is submitted under Section 16 of the Environmental Protection Act and describes Council activities during the 1987 calendar year.

STRUCTURE

The Environmental Protection Act sets out the composition, function, and responsibilities of the Environmental Control Council. The 12 to 15 members are appointed by the Governor-in-Council to represent eleven specified disciplines. In addition, Council members are expected to reflect—insofar as possible—the concerns of their geographic communities during Council deliberations.

The Deputy Minister of the Environment is an ex-officio member of the Council.

Membership of the Council during 1987 was as follows:

Executive Members

Morris J. Haugg, Amherst—Chairman and Member-at-Large
Paul Buxton, Annapolis Royal—Engineering
Sylvia Lawton, Dartmouth—Member-at-Large

Members

Harry Munro, New Glasgow—Legal
David R. Roberts, Bedford—Conservation
Douglas Hale, Waterville, Kings County—Academic
Richard Rawlins, Hantsport—Forestry
Harry Cook, Bridgewater—Municipal
Stephen Craig, Lower Sackville—Industry
David MacGibbon, New Waterford—Member-at-Large
Ron Durling, Bridgewater—Medicine
Alex Hines, New Waterford—Labour
Rodney Banks, Kingston—Agriculture
Gabriel d'Entremont, Lower West Pubnico—Fishery

Deputy Minister Arthur H. Abbott is ex-officio member, attending both Executive and Council meetings. James MacDonald, Sydney, is Secretary and Chief Executive Officer. Staff support for program development and office services is provided by the Department of the Environment.

At year's end there were three vacancies; two Executive members and one Council member.

Throughout the year the Council enjoyed good relations with the department and the Minister, the Honourable Laird Stirling.

MEETINGS

The Council held two meetings in 1987, all in Halifax. The Executive met six times. The Executive also met immediately prior to each Council meeting. In addition, members of the Executive met in connection with the Ministerial Task Force on Hazardous Wastes, the activities of which are described elsewhere in this report.

The schedule of meetings was as follows:

Executive

March 10	Halifax
April 30	Halifax
May 20	Halifax
June 23	Halifax
September 18	Halifax
October 25	Halifax

Council

March 9–10	Halifax
October 25–26	Halifax

As well as regular Council and Executive meetings, the Council attended the following:

11th Annual Assembly of Canadian Advisory Councils

The Council was represented by Paul Buxton, Executive Member and Jim MacDonald Executive Secretary. The theme of the gathering held in Toronto on October 22–24, 1988 was "Environment and Economy". Of special interest at the conference was the release of a special task force report in which the Honourable Laird Stirling had participated as Minister of the Environment.

Federal Assessment Review

Sylvia Lawton attended and familiarized herself with the proposals for change during a meeting held in Halifax on November 9, 1987.

Meetings with the Minister

The Executive met with the Minister on June 23, September 18 and October 25, 1987. The purpose of these meetings was to review Council activities and forward resolutions and recommendations from the Council.

ACTIVITIES AND STUDIES

Ministerial Task Force on Hazardous Wastes

The task force briefed Cabinet on their findings. An official report was released in April 1987.

Upon completion of his second consecutive term on the Council, Paul Buxton was appointed an advisor to the Minister on the handling of hazardous wastes and dangerous goods.

Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process

Points of Discussion

- the scope of the process—the desirability of extending it to crown corporations, and federal regulatory agencies
- the application of the process to federally funded initiatives
- the possible granting of authority to the Minister to require public reviews in certain circumstances such as projects considered to be in the national interest or upon the request of a provincial environment Minister
- the desirability of applying the federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) to projects which have transboundary impacts
- the desirability of developing a federal/provincial agreement or memorandum of understanding on environmental impact assessment

Environmental Awards—1986

The eighth annual Environmental Awards were presented by The Minister in March 1987. Premier John Buchanan attended the presentation ceremony and congratulated the recipients.

Awards were presented to:

- Youth— Bicentennial Elementary Enrichment Students for their campaign aimed at clean-up of Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth.

- Individual— C.J. Spencer, Dartmouth—public speaking on environmental issues.

Peter Weal, Dartmouth—coordination of the clean-up of the Little Salmon River.

- Certificates of Merit— Walter Brown, Halifax County.
  Mr. and Mrs. Bernard DeCoste, Guysborough County.
  Rosemary Eaton, Cole Harbour.
  Harold Graham, Carl Haycock, Digby County.

- Citizen Organization—Smelt Brook Society, North Sydney for their clean-up of Smelt Brook.
  Paradise Dump Group, Paradise—civic leadership in an environmental issue.

- Certificate of Merit— Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society, Halifax County.
  Kings County Firefighters
  Tusket River Environmental Protection Association
  Grafton Community Club

- Professional— David Orr, New Glasgow for his work in the silviculture industry.

- Education— Diane Anderson, Kentville—Outdoor Education Day
  Steve Handspiker, Halifax County—Saltmarsh Study.

- Certificates of Merit— Yvonne Rafuse, William Bruhum, Bridgewater.
  Rob McConnell, Grosvenor-Wentworth Park School.

- Government—Certificates of Merit
  Novaco—reclamation project.
  East River Pollution Abatement System, Trenton.
  Metropolitan Authority
  Municipality of the County of Halifax
  N.S. Department of Transportation

Environmental Awards—1987

Nominations were requested by December 1, 1987. A final review by the selection committee will be conducted in January, and awards will be presented in March.

Local Issues

Individual Council members are requested to report at each meeting on environmental questions related to their discipline or region. During 1987, the questions about the impact of the following were forwarded to the department:

Woodwaste utilization
Herring waste disposal
Halifax harbour clean-up
Elderkin brook water removal
Environmental impact assessment
Spray program
Sackville central system sewage disposal
Hazardous waste and disposal
Environment and economy

Ministerial Orders

During the year, the Council received and acknowledged copies of the following Orders:

Stop Order—New Minas Contracting, January 13, 1987.
Stop/Compliance Order—Wendy's Reliable Cleaners, Port Hawkesbury, January 23, 1987.
Compliance Order—Mr. Donald Edward MacKay, August 6, 1987.
Prosecution of Allister MacDonald, Antigonish County, March 16, 1987.
Stop/Compliance Order—Walter Maughan, Lunenburg County, August 24, 1987.
Stop/Compliance Order—Nosco Marine Industries, Montreal, Quebec, July 14, 1987.
Stop/Compliance Order—Navican Management, Montreal, Quebec, July 14, 1987. August 15, 1986.
Stop/Compliance Order—CSL Group Inc., Halifax, May 12, 1987.
Stop/Compliance Order—Mr. Lawrence Sweeney, Yarmouth County, June 15, 1987.

Stop/Compliance Order—Mr. Herbert Wile, Lunenburg County, June 18, 1987.
Compliance Order—Cape Breton Development Corporation, Glace Bay, October 9, 1987.
Stop/Compliance Order—Scott Weeks Ltd., Inverness County, October 22, 1987.
Stop/Compliance Order—Zupthen Brothers, Inverness County, October 22, 1987.
Compliance Order—James Johnson, Truro, November 11, 1987.
Stop/Compliance Order—Ken Mor Realties Ltd., Kentville, August 26, 1987.
Compliance Order—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Francis, Halifax, August 5, 1987.
Compliance Order—Mr. Verne McKinnley, Truro, August 7, 1987.
Compliance Order—Mr. Dwight Campbell, Truro, August 7, 1987.
Compliance Order—Mr. Frank Vanmeekeren, Kings County, August 20, 1987.
Stop Order—Mr. Harry Welton, Kings County, April 27, 1987.

Environmental Impact Assessment

It was agreed that there was a need for an environmental assessment process with a public consultation component.

Chairman Morris Haugg wrote a letter to the Honourable Laird Stirling thanking him for bringing the Bill to Cabinet. He also suggested the public should be approached for comment and input, with the Council having a role in the assessment process as well.

ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER

Education

The essay competition slated for junior high schools was to be introduced in the fall term of 1987, awards to be given during Environment Week '88.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Woodwaste Utilization

On request of Mr. R.K. MacKinnon, a past council member and representative of Bowater Mersey, the Executive considered the topic of woodwaste (woodchips, bark and sawdust). The May 20th Executive meeting was attended by Mr. MacKinnon, and Mr. Boston of the same company, also David Gates as Department of the Environment's resource person.